

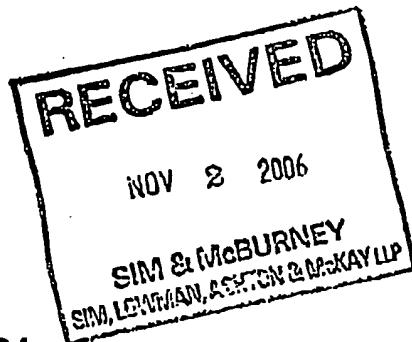


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October 30, 2006



Application No. : 2,292,824
Owner : PANASONIC COMMUNICATIONS CO., LTD.
Title : IMAGE DATA COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE AND METHOD
Classification : H04N 1/32 (2006.01)
Your File No. : 9116-72MIS:II
Examiner : Gilbert Jean

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF A REQUISITION BY THE EXAMINER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION 30(2) OF THE PATENT RULES. IN ORDER TO AVOID ABANDONMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 73(1)(A) OF THE PATENT ACT, A WRITTEN REPLY MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN SIX MONTHS AFTER THE ABOVE DATE.

This application has been examined taking into account applicant's correspondence received in this office on June 30, 2005.

The number of claims in this application is 5.

The letter dated June 30, 2005 has failed to adequately address the issues raised in the first office action with regards to obviousness. In particular, the letter does not provide any convincing arguments as to why the alleged inventive features of claims 1 to 5 are not obvious over the cited references. Accordingly, the objections remain as follows:

Reference re-applied

European Patent Office Application
801,492 □ Oct. 15, 1997

H04N 1/00

Toyoda

A further search of the prior art has revealed the following:

Reference applied

United States Patent
5,742,763 Apr. 21, 1998

G06F 13/00

Jones

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Toyoda discloses an electronic mail system connected to a network which includes a section for converting an image of a document surface into a document image data. The system comprises a section to convert the received image data into a received image data of a given facsimile format.

Jones discloses a message delivery system, for use with a communication network that delivers a message from a sender to a network. The delivery system can append sender information to the message.

Obviousness

The subject matter of the present application relates to an image communication device and a method of communication, through which a recipient can identify a transmitter before opening a file attached to an E-mail when the recipient receives the E-mail.

Toyoda teaches an electronic mail system connected to a network where the analyzed character sequence indicates registration of a destination mail address, while providing a correspondence relation between the sender ID information and the destination mail address.

Jones teaches a computer-based communication network service and a system in which an entity is represented by a network presence associated with a handle identifier used as an address.

In the last correspondence, it was argued that the references applied do not disclose setting the identification of the user into the mail message of the e-mail.

Claim 1 recites an image data communication apparatus connected to an image data source and to a network, the image data communication apparatus comprising:

- a memory configured to store information regarding an identification of a user of the image data communication apparatus.

Toyoda discloses an electronic mail system connected to a network that registers sender ID information (column 2, line 45).

- a controller configured to set the information regarding the identification of the user selected by the panel section into the mail message of the e-mail to which the image data is attached.

Jones discloses a computer-based communication network service and a delivery system that append sender's information to a message (column 2, lines 31 to 34).

Thus, claim 1 is obvious since it defines the technical features that are disclosed by *Toyoda* and *Jones*, namely, a memory configured to store information regarding an identification of a user of the image data communication apparatus, and a controller configured to set the information regarding the identification of the user selected by the panel section into the mail message of the e-mail.

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Claim 5, which is directed to the same subject matter as claim 1, is also found to be obvious.

Dependent claims 2 to 4, which further define the subject matter of claims 1 and 5, fail to introduce any inventive limitations and are also considered obvious.

Although *Toyoda* does not disclose a controller configured to set the information regarding the identification of the user selected by the panel section into the mail message of the e-mail, *Jones* discloses a computer-based communication network service and a delivery system that append sender's information to a message.

Therefore, claims 1 to 5 do not comply with section 28.3 of the *Patent Act*. The subject matter of these claims would have been obvious on the claim date to a person skilled in the art or science to which they pertain having regard to *Toyoda* and *Jones*, in light of the common knowledge disclosed by *Jones*.

In view of the foregoing defects, the applicant is requisitioned, under subsection 30(2) of the *Patent Rules*, to amend the application in order to comply with the *Patent Act* and the *Patent Rules* or to provide arguments as to why the application does comply.

Under section 34 of the *Patent Rules*, any amendment made in response to this requisition must be accompanied by a statement explaining the nature thereof, and how it corrects each of the above identified defects.

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